

DALTON-IN-FURNESS  
URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

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Annual Report

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH

FOR  
THE YEAR 1897.

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R. BLAKE PRINTER, BOOKBINDER, AND STATIONER

DALTON-IN-FURNESS

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— : DALTON-IN-FURNESS : —

## Urban Sanitary District.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

~~~ FOR THE YEAR 1897. ~~~

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Dalton-in-Furness Urban Sanitary Authority :—*

GENTLEMEN,—

The time has again arrived when I am called upon to submit to you my Annual Report of the health and sanitary condition of the District for the year 1897.

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Area of District—7223 Acres.

Rateable Value of District—(1896), £80,313 10s.  
(1897), £87,390 5s.

Inhabited Houses (1871) 1,603; (1881) 2,383; (1891) 2,597;  
(1896) 2,603, (1897) 2,650

Population Enumerated.—(1871) 8,983; (1881) 13,339; (1891)  
13,300. Of Dalton and Newton the population is 9,174; of Askam  
and Ireleth 3,135; and of Lindal and Marton 1,021.

Inspection of District.—In accordance with the instructions of the Local Government Board the district has been subjected to regular inspection, and in cases of the notification of infectious disease, special visits have been made, the same course has also been adopted on the receipt of reports of any insanitary conditions.

### Sanitary Condition and Progress—Water Supply.—So far as

the supply furnished by the Barrow County Council is concerned this has at all times been of good quality and sufficient in quantity. But unfortunately there is a number of dwellings outside the radius of the public mains, and I regret that no progress has been made in the direction of obtaining a proper supply for such houses, nor in the absence of the powers which would be conferred on the Authority by the provisions of the "Public Health Water Act," 1898, but with which powers the Local Government Board refuse to invest the Council, it appears to be impossible to compel the owners of property to provide their tenants with a proper supply unless this can be done at a cost which does not exceed that which is laid down by the Public Health Act, (1875). The question which the Council must, under the circumstances consider, is as to whether it would not be advisable to take upon themselves the provision of a supply, and in those cases where the cost exceeds that which is allowed by the Act, the excess would have to be paid out of the district fund. In the case of the cottage at Dunerholme Crossing, mentioned in my annual report for 1896, the Council used every endeavour to induce the owners (The Furness Railway Company) to make terms with the owner of a water main in close proximity to this cottage, whereby they could obtain a supply, nothing has, however, come of the negotiations, the company appearing to prefer rather to allow their servants to run the risks which the consumption of an impure supply entails than go to a slight expense in procuring a pure one.

New Streets.—The following new streets have been metalled kerbed, and channelled according to the provisions of the Public Health Act, viz: James-street, Dalton (back and front), Steel-street, Askam (back and front), Sharp-street, Askam (back and front); and the following are in course of construction, Harris-street, Crossley-street, Cross-street, Stafford-street, all in Askam. I am informed that your Surveyor has submitted a list, to the Highway Committee, of all the streets which have not been completed and taken over by the Council with a view to applying to the Local Government Board for a loan to enable the same to be completed. I think it would be well if the Council, in constructing back streets, would consider the advisability of substituting some form of paving in preference to the macadam now adopted, which cannot possibly be consolidated, because on account of the narrowness of the streets it is not practicable to use the heavy roller, the consequence is that the streets made in such a way are very often in a dirty condition, and, moreover, in scavenging, the privy-middens are emptied on to the streets, and these not being imperious, retain a considerable amount of filth.

**Sewerage and Drainage.**—More than usual attention has been given to the flushing and cleansing of the sewers during the year. A short length of 9 inch sewer has been constructed to take the drainage from cottages in Market-street to join the ordinary sewer in Mr. Denney's field.

I do not think the sewers are sufficiently well ventilated, and I should advise that shafts be erected at all the dead ends, not less than four inches in diameter, and also at the highest points.

I find that in far too many instances the down spouts enter directly into the drains, and as they often run in very close proximity to the windows, there is great danger of sewer air finding its way into the houses. Orders should be issued for all such spouts to be made to open over trapped gullies.

**Newton Sewerage.**—During the year your Surveyor submitted a scheme for the sewerage of this village, but on account of the expense it was not adopted. The matter is now in abeyance, awaiting the completion of an arrangement between your Council and the Barrow Hæmatite Steel Company as to the disposal of the effluent, the present outfall which is in the district of the Barrow County Council, being blocked and altogether inadequate. It is to be hoped that some settlement may be shortly arrived at, and then at length we may be able to say that this village is properly sewered.

**Excrement and Refuse Disposal.**—The scavenging of the town is in the hands of the Council, and may be considered as satisfactory as any such undertaking could be where so many privy-middens have to be dealt with.

**Offensive Trades.**—There is only one trade, viz : that of tripe boiling which comes within the meaning of the Act, and no complaints have been received with regard to this. I have, however, frequently received complaints of the offensive odours which arise from some of the fried fish and chipped potato shops, which abound in the town, this with a little care might be avoided, if the fire places were constructed with a hood to carry the vapours into the flue.

**Dairies and Cowsheds.**—The Dairies Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, 1885, has been adopted in the district, but no regulation is enforced as to the amount of cubic space allowed for each animal, in many cases the allowance is far below that which is necessary for the preservation of the health of the cattle, in some instances I should say falling as low as 150 cubic feet per head ; although it may not be possible to fix 800 cubic feet as the lowest amount allowed, nevertheless the Council should prescribe a minimum, which should be strictly adhered to.

**Table of Sanitary Work carried out during the  
Year, as furnished by your Inspector.—**

|                                              |       |
|----------------------------------------------|-------|
| Notices issued for sanitary amendments .. .. | 62    |
| Number of Premises affected .. ..            | 81    |
| Privies and Ashpits repaired .. ..           | 23    |
| Yard drains cleansed and repaired .. ..      | 21    |
| Yard gullies repaired .. ..                  | 3     |
| Yards repaired .. ..                         | 5     |
| Slopstone pipes repaired .. ..               | 2     |
| Roofs and walls repaired .. ..               | 1     |
| Defective W.C's. repaired .. ..              | 5     |
| New W.C's. .. ..                             | 9     |
| Filthy houses cleansed .. ..                 | 2     |
| Bedding destroyed (in cases) .. ..           | 1     |
| Houses disinfected after fever .. ..         | 6     |
| Ashpits emptied .. ..                        | 5257  |
| Loads of Ashpit refuse removed .. ..         | 1923  |
| No. of slaughterhouses .. ..                 | 11    |
| No. of inspections .. ..                     | 711   |
| No. of licensed cowsheds and dairies .. ..   | 12    |
| No. of inspections .. ..                     | 735   |
| No. of lodging-houses .. ..                  | 1     |
| No. of Inspections .. ..                     | 33    |
|                                              | T. C. |
| Lime distributed for house-cleaning .. ..    | 3 3   |
| Sanitary dry lime distributed .. ..          | 1 9   |

*Result of Verbal Notice only :—*

|                                          |    |
|------------------------------------------|----|
| W.C's repaired and cleansed .. ..        | 7  |
| Privies converted into W.C's .. ..       | 2  |
| Privies and ashpits repaired .. ..       | 5  |
| Yard gullies repaired and cleansed .. .. | 3  |
| Drains cleansed and repaired .. ..       | 17 |

*Factory and Workshop Act—Outworkers :—*

|                        |    |
|------------------------|----|
| Employers .. ..        | 1  |
| Persons employed .. .. | 3  |
| Inspectors .. ..       | 11 |

**THOS. PROCTER,**

19th January, 1898.

Inspector of Nuisances.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

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**Population.**—The census population in the year 1891 was 13,300 living in 2,597 houses, an average per house of 5·1, and 1·45 persons for each acre. It is not estimated that in the last seven years the population will have undergone anything but the very slightest variations, therefore it is considered safe to base all the calculations which may be necessary in these statistics on the estimated population of 1891.

The population is distributed as under :—

|                   |    | Male | Female | Total |
|-------------------|----|------|--------|-------|
| Dalton and Newton | .. | 4616 | 4528   | 9144  |
| Lindal and Marton | .. | 534  | 487    | 1021  |
| Askam and Ireleth | .. | 1652 | 1483   | 3158  |
|                   |    | 6802 | 6428   | 13330 |

**Births.**—The number of births registered during the year has been 377 as compared with 354 in the year 1896, and 421 in 1895, a birthrate for the past year of 28·3 per thousand, whereas in 1896 it was 26·6 per thousand.

|                                             |    | 1897 | 1896 |
|---------------------------------------------|----|------|------|
| In the first quarter of the year there were |    | 95   | 88   |
| „ second                                    | „  | 123  | 86   |
| „ third                                     | „  | 84   | 83   |
| „ fourth                                    | „  | 75   | 97   |
| Totals                                      | .. | 377  | 354  |

The distribution of the births in the three divisions into which the district is divided in this report is as follows :—

|                      | 1897 | Rate per 1000 | 1896      | Rate per 1000 |
|----------------------|------|---------------|-----------|---------------|
| Dalton and Newton..  | 244  | 26·6          | 216       | 23·6          |
| Lindal and Marton..  | 19   | 13·6          | 28        | 27·4          |
| Askam and Ireleth .. | 114  | 39·09         | 113       | 34·8          |
| Total                | 377  | Avg. 27·9     | Tot'l 354 | Avg. 31·6     |

There were 162 Male and 208 female children born.

**Deaths.**—189 deaths have been registered as occurring during the past year, in the year 1896 the number was 194. Thus the death rate in 1897 was 14.2 per thousand, and in 1896 14.8 per thousand, a decrease of .6 per thousand for the year.

The deaths were distributed as follows—

|                   | 1897       | Rate per         | 1896           | Rate per        |
|-------------------|------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
|                   |            | 1000             |                | 1000            |
| Dalton and Newton | 124        | 14.6             | 135            | 14.7            |
| Lindal and Marton | 5          | 5.8              | 7              | 6.7             |
| Askam and Ireleth | 50         | 15.8             | 52             | 16.4            |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>189</b> | <b>Avg 12.06</b> | <b>Ttl 194</b> | <b>Avg 12.6</b> |

108 of the deaths have been in males and 81 in females.

Calculated for the four quarters of the year the deaths were:—

|               | 1897       | 1896       |
|---------------|------------|------------|
| First quarter | ..         | 56         |
| Second „      | ..         | 39         |
| Third „       | ..         | 47         |
| Fourth „      | ..         | 47         |
| <b>Totals</b> | <b>189</b> | <b>194</b> |

**Diseases of the Respiratory Organs.**—There were 45 deaths registered from diseases of this class, viz:—34 in Dalton and 11 in Askam and Ireleth; in the previous year 48 deaths were found under the same heading. The deaths from Phthisis (Consumption of the Lungs) which come in this list number 12 in both years.

**Infantile and Senile Mortality**—43 Infants have failed to battle through the first year of life, giving an Infantile death-rate of 114.05 per thousand births. In the previous year there were 45 Infantile deaths, giving a death-rate of 126.8 per thousand births.

In persons over 65 years of age there have been 39 deaths compared with 42 in the year 1896.

**Zymotic Death-rate.**—This is a term applied commonly, not to the mortality from all diseases classed as zymotic, but to the death-rate from the "seven principal zymotic diseases," namely—small-pox, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, whooping cough, "fever" (typhus, simple continued, and enteric), and diarrhoea.

### Zymotic Deaths.—

|                          |    | 1897      | 1896      |
|--------------------------|----|-----------|-----------|
| Diphtheria ..            | .. | 2         | 1         |
| Enteric or Typhoid Fever |    | 6         | 1         |
| Whooping Cough ..        |    | 4         | 11        |
| Diarrhoea ..             |    | 10        | 3         |
| Measles ..               | .. | 5         |           |
| Totals ..                |    | <u>27</u> | <u>16</u> |

From the above the Zymotic death-rate is calculated as being 2.03 per 1000 in 1897, and 1.2 in 1896.

The following cases have been notified under the provisions of the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889.

|      | Scarlet Fever | Typhoid Fever | Diphtheria | Puerperal Fever | Erysipelas | Small Pox | Croup | Total |
|------|---------------|---------------|------------|-----------------|------------|-----------|-------|-------|
| 1897 | 17            | 18            | 5          |                 | 16         |           | 1     | 57    |
| 1896 | 26            | 10            | 0          | 0               | 21         | 11        |       | 69    |

The cases were Distributed in the various districts as under :—

|                    | Dalton and Newton. | Lindal and Marton | Askam and Ireleth | Totals. |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------|
| Typhoid Fever ..   | 15                 | 1                 | 2                 | 18      |
| Scarlet Fever ..   | 17                 | ..                | ..                | 17      |
| Diphtheria ..      | 5                  | ..                | ..                | 5       |
| Erysipelas ..      | 13                 | ..                | 3                 | 16      |
| Membranous Croup.. | 1                  | ..                | ..                | 1       |
| Totals ..          | 47                 | 1                 | 5                 | 57      |

**Typhoid Fever.**—Tabulated below will be found the results of the inspection of the various premises where this disease has been reported to exist.—

|                                       | No. of Cases | REMARKS.                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>JANUARY.</b>                       |              |                                                                                                               |
| 125, Ulverston-road<br>Dalton ..      | 1            | Premises in a satisfactory sanitary condition.                                                                |
| <b>MARCH.</b>                         |              |                                                                                                               |
| 15, Lancaster-street<br>Dalton ..     | 1            | Ditto.                                                                                                        |
| 121, High King-street<br>Dalton ..    | 1            | Ditto.                                                                                                        |
| <b>MAY.</b>                           |              |                                                                                                               |
| 9, Wellington-street,<br>Dalton .. .. | 1            | Back yards in a bad state of repair.                                                                          |
| <b>JUNE.</b>                          |              |                                                                                                               |
| 10, Sharp-street, Askam               | 1            | Large open privy-midden adjoining back kitchen.                                                               |
| <b>JULY.</b>                          |              |                                                                                                               |
| 6, Cobden-st., Dalton ..              | 1            | Large open privy-midden.                                                                                      |
| 25, Ashworth-street,<br>Dalton .. ..  | 1            | Ditto.                                                                                                        |
| <b>AUGUST.</b>                        |              |                                                                                                               |
| Tythebarn, Dalton ..                  | 1            | The only source of drinking water is stored rain water collected from the roofs, & is found to be very filthy |
| <b>SEPTEMBER.</b>                     |              |                                                                                                               |
| 34, Broughton-road,<br>Dalton .. ..   | 1            | Privy-midden adjoining back kitchen.                                                                          |
| <b>OCTOBER.</b>                       |              |                                                                                                               |
| Woodbine, Dalton ..                   | 1            | The general sanitary condition of the whole of these cottages is most unsatisfactory.                         |
| Crooklands, Dalton ..                 | 1            | Water from privy-midden soaks into back street.                                                               |
| Beech Hill, Dalton ..                 | 2            | Open privy midden.                                                                                            |
| Marton ..                             | 1            | The liquid from a privy midden which is distant only a few feet from the dwelling finds its way into the      |
| <b>NOVEMBER.</b>                      |              |                                                                                                               |
| 32, Market-street,<br>Dalton .. ..    | 1            | No sanitary defects apparent. [sub-soil.                                                                      |
| 1, Furnace pl'ce, Askam               | 1            | Large open privy-midden.                                                                                      |
| 161, Chapel-st, Dalton                | 1            | Premises in good condition.                                                                                   |
| <b>DECEMBER.</b>                      |              |                                                                                                               |
| 30, Rawlinson-street, ..              | 2            | No sanitary defects.                                                                                          |

It is always a matter of extreme regret to me that, year after year, I should be called upon to report upon such a large number of cases of this disease, which is essentially preventable, being due in the great majority of instances to defective sanitation, impure drinking water, or specifically polluted milk. The water supply to the district generally is above suspicion, and in no instance was there any reason to look upon the milk consumed as the vehicle of convection. We are therefore driven to the conclusion that the disease must owe its origin to defective sanitation in some form or other. The privy-midden system which prevails largely in the district I need only mention to condemn as most insanitary, altogether out of date, and one which the Council should spare no pains to supersede by the water carriage system which although not perhaps quite perfect, is with care the best adapted for Urban districts.

**Measles.**—In my report for the year 1896 I mentioned that this disease was prevalent at the end of the year, and to such an extent was this the case that it was found necessary to prolong the holidays after Christmas. For the same reason it was deemed advisable to close the Ireleth schools.

**Scarlet Fever.**—During the year seventeen cases of this disease were notified, and one death was registered as arising from this cause.

**Diphtheria.**—In two cases the disease was certainly introduced from another district the sufferer having only been in the town a short time. One case was notified as arising at the Police Station, Dalton. The drains were tested and one leading from a W.C. in the cell was discovered to be defective, with the result that sewer gas was gaining admission into the house.

Another case occurred at No. 10, Nelson-street, Dalton, and on examining the premises it was found that there was a pipe which had been put in either as a ventilating shaft or a down spout, and which opened directly into the drain which was found to be broken off, and there was nothing to prevent sewer air finding its way into the house where the disease existed.

**Infectious Diseases Hospital.**--In my last annual report I spoke of a conference of the various local authorities having jurisdiction in the Union having met to deliberate as to the advisability of establishing a Joint Hospital Board, and although more than a year has elapsed, nothing definite has been arranged, but I venture to hope that it will not be very long before a Provisional Order is issued. Whether the Joint Hospital becomes an accomplished fact or not, it is absolutely necessary that your Council should take steps to provide isolation accommodation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

**G. H. PATTERSON,**

L.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S. Eng., D.P.H. Lond.

(Acting) Medical Officer of Health

14th February, 1898.



